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Cutler refutes magazine article

(This is the second of three articles dealing with a piece that appeared in the New Yorker in July on the assassination of President Kennedy. The author of that article, Edward Jay Epstein, also authored a book on the assassination, "Inquest." Mr. Cutler, a Manchester architect, begins his second article refuting a quote from Epstein's magazine piece.)

By ROBERT B. CUTLER

Page 125: "Why did the Commission fail to take cognizance in its conclusions of this evidence of a second assassin? Quite clearly, a serious discussion of this problem would have in itself undermined the dominant purpose of the Commission, namely the settling of doubts and suspicions.

Indeed, if the Commission had made it clear that very substantial evidence indicated the presence of a second assassin, it would have opened a Pandora's box of doubts and suspicions.

In establishing its version of the truth, the Warren Commission acted to reassure the nation and protect the national interest."

"Inquest" is one of the books that has contributed in no small way to the polls' tabulations that 60 percent of the people in this country (May, 1967) have no faith in the Oswald-three-shot political truth promulgated by the "father-images" on the Warren Commission.

Dismal, Dallas Days

With this introudction to EJE, it is now proper to approach his New Yorker article, entitled "Garrison". Because of the almost five years of doubt and questioning since those dismal, Dallas days, anyone who expresses these subconcious sentiments publicly receives some recognition in the press whether or not the publisher doubts or believes.

When one of the "best-seller" critics appears to be re-arranging his 1966 melody into a variation on a theme with a minor-off-key-atonality and also seems to be providing positive proof that the only legal officer in the country who is prosecuting anyone remotely connected with the conspiracy, is standing on a veritable quagmire without the semblance of visible support, the reading public and the publisher take to it like the proverbial canard to the water.

The public's lust for blood, which enables bull-fighting to be classed an entertainment, is always prepared for a tale embodying the undermining of a national figure by one once welcomed as a friend. Rumor and gossip, convicts and homosexuals, plus the David-and-Goliath aspect of a great big windbag DA being cut down to size makes lurid, self-satisfying reading; into everyone's life a little acid must come, if only to make the antidotal martini the more delectable.

1967 Excitement

EJE has written quite a presentable piece considering it is able to hang together despite its tendaciousness, which is considerable. On the one hand it enlivens the natual curiosity most people possess while on the other hand it satisfies and soothes any doubts and fears the same people might have about their leaders in the governmental power structure.

The story tells of EJE's going to New Orleans and working with the "Dealey Plaza Irregulars", on the leads that came into the DA's office in the exciting days of early 1967.

Although he would be the last one to classify himself with those demonologists, nonetheless they and he were working on the same wave length, at least for a while. Disenchantment came to EJE as he considered the ephemeral quality of the "evidence" on which Clay Shaw was arrested, and indicted.

Pronouncements by Garrison pertaining to the CIA, the Establishment, LBJ, the conspirators and the national press began to sound maniacal, demogogical and the erudite EJE backed up his bewilderment with quotations from psyohological writings and theses.

Skillful Web Woven

Anyone reading the entire 25,000 word article must be more than casually concerned about the subject to engender sufficient endurance to reach the final paragraph without "cheating". More than once one experiences a desperate sinking feeling as EJE weaves his web skillfully and the reputation of the New Yorker seems to balloon as one considers the mass of innocent readers who will assimilate and blabberingly "re-publish" the good news that Garrison is a fake, a charlatan, a demogogue composed of three parts: hot political air, one part slippery evasiveness and more than just a pinch of mental instability.

Facts Withheld?

The part of the article not based on EJE's personal experience and interpretation of what the DA was up to deals with some facts given by Garrison in a half-hour NBC-TV program, which he asserts are being withheld from the public.

In criticism of these facts EJE runs afoul of what the critics have clearly demonstrated to be the truth.

For instance, the fact Oswald was seen in the second-floor lunchroom less than two minutes after the final shot was fired is shown to be a "plausible alternative to presumption of guilt" by Thompson, Sauvage, Weisberg and Meagher.

When EJE runs counter to this factual evidence as detailed in the volumes of testimony and carefully analyzed by the critics, it tends to give one pause in accepting his statements and interpretations of Garrison's activities

If, as EJE points out to his own satisfaction, and it is his own conscience which dictated his role of informer, the DA has such a weak case that it'll not stand up in court, why not let him "fall flat on his face" as Garrison himself has stated on many occassions?.

This would rid the government of the only flea biting at its elephantine hide and we can all sit back enjoying the political truth and wait until 2039 to discover the "other" truth about the assassination.

If we look at the facts as they now exist we have nothing more than Clay Shaw arrested and indicted for conspiring to kill the President plus interminable maneuvering by the defense attorneys to prevent his ever coming to trial.

The only logical explanation for the extensive delaying action is that Shaw is scared, the defense is scared and so it follows the government is scared.

(to be continued